

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTONJR:SKG

APPROVED BY S:THE SECRETARY

EUR:MR ARMITAGE

P:JJSISCO

S/S - MR. ORTIZ

WH - MR. OAKLEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

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NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, YO, AG, IR

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT - MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT
TITO

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

1. IN VIEW MODERATE AND RESPONSIBLE STAND TAKEN BY YUGO-
SLAVIA ON NEW EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI INTERIM AGREEMENT, WE WOULD
LIKE TO OBTAIN PRESIDENT TITO'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS
IN SUPPORT OF AGREEMENT TO ARAB RADICALS, PARTICULARLY
ALGERIA AND IRAQ, WITH WHOM HE HAS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP. IN
PURSUIT OF THIS END REQUEST YOU DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM PRESIDENT FORD TO PRESIDENT TITO:

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2. BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT'S SPOKESMAN HAS DESCRIBED THE NEW EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI INTERIM AGREEMENT AS QUOTE A POSITIVE STEP UNQUOTE AND QUOTE A SIGNIFICANT MOMENT IN MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS. UNQUOTE I APPRECIATE THIS EVALUATION, MR. PRESIDENT, AND I KNOW YOU LOOK, AS I DO, BEYOND THIS AGREEMENT TO A JUST AND LASTING PEACE FOR ALL THE NATIONS AND PEOPLES OF THE MIDDLE EAST. THIS AGREEMENT MUST BE FOLLOWED BY CONTINUOUS EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS ON OTHER FRONTS, INCLUDING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SYRIA

AND ISRAEL. AS I INDICATED IN OUR MEETINGS IN BELGRADE IN AUGUST, OUR INTENTION IS TO REMAIN ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS, AND NOT TO TOLERATE A STALEMATE.

PRESIDENT SADAT IS PURSUING THE SAME SORT OF FARSEEING, SOUND, AND COURAGEOUS POLICY, BRAVING CRITICISM FROM THOSE WHO DISAGREE, AS YOU HAVE ALWAYS DONE. I KNOW THAT YOU WOULD PREFER, AS WE WOULD, TO MOVE FORWARD MORE RAPIDLY ON ALL ASPECTS OF AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT, INCLUDING THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. I AM CERTAIN THAT PRESIDENT SADAT SHARES THIS VIEW. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE HE HAS COME TO RECOGNIZE, AS WE HAVE, THE REALITY THAT THE BEST MEANS OF MAINTAINING MOMENTUM TOWARD PEACE IS BY TAKING ANOTHER MORE LIMITED STEP AS HE HAS AGREED TO, RATHER THAN FOLLOWING THE SUPERFICIALLY EASIER COURSE OF CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE ALL-OR-NOTHING SOLUTIONS. IN DOING SO, HE HAS CREATED AN OPENING FOR PEACE WHICH, I AM CONVINCED, HISTORY WILL RECORD AS A COURAGEOUS ACT OF STATESMANSHIP TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL THOSE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WHO SEEK A TRULY JUST AND LASTING PEACE.

UNFORTUNATELY, SOME HAVE TENDED TO DENIGRATE WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN REACHING THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY EGYPT AND ISRAEL LAST WEEK. SUCH ANTAGONISM CAN ONLY THREATEN WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. INDEED, ATTACKS ON THE AGREEMENT CAN THREATEN THE VERY TENUOUS PEACE SO FAR MAINTAINED IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE THAT THE UNITY OF THE ARAB STATES IS THE BEST MEANS TO BUILD ON LAST WEEK'S AGREEMENT SO AS TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM FOR PEACEFUL

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PROGRESS, AND TO CREATE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE MIDDLE EAST TO TURN FROM A SUCCESSION OF WARS TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE IN WHICH THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF ALL NATIONS AND PEOPLES OF THE AREA ARE ACCOMMODATED. I KNOW YOU SHARE WITH ME THE HIGH HOPES WE HAVE FOR THE AGREEMENT AND WHAT IT CAN PORTEND FOR THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS. IF YOU ALSO SHARE WITH ME THE CONCERN OVER WHAT CAN RESULT FROM CONTINUING ATTACKS BY THOSE WHO OPPOSE THE AGREEMENT, I

WOULD BE DEEPLY GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD MAKE AVAILABLE TO
OTHERS YOUR WISDOM AND COUNSEL IN THIS REGARD, IN
PARTICULAR TO THE LEADERS OF SUCH COUNTRIES AS IRAQ AND
ALGERIA WHOSE VOICES ARE OF SOME IMPORTANCE IN THE ARAB
WORLD- YOUR SUPPORT NOW COULD MAKE AN IMPORTANT
CONTRIBUTION TO KEEPING THE PEACE PROCESS MOVING.

SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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